

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (New) A CHO cell deprived of a portion of the gene encoding for CMAH.

Claim 16 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 15 deprived of a gene sequence which encodes for the binding site to the substrate (CMP-N-acetyl-neuraminic acid) and for the binding site to the cofactor (b5 cytochrome).

Claim 17 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 15 wherein said portion is disposed between part of exon 10 and part of exon 15 of the gene encoding for CMAH.

Claim 18 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 15 wherein said portion is within encoding for the sequence disposed between bases 787 and 1598 of cDNA encoding for CMAH.

Claim 19 (New) A cell according to Claim 18, wherein said portion has the sequence: SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 20 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 18 deprived of the portion of the gene encoding for the sequence of CMAH disposed between amino-acid 262 and amino-acid 532.

Claim 21 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 18, wherein said portion has the sequence: SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 22 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 18, wherein the NCBI accession number of the cDNA is AJ242835.

Claim 23 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 15, wherein the portion of the gene encoding for CMAH is absent from both alleles.

Claim 26 (New) A method for expressing a heterologous recombinant protein comprising culturing CHO cells according to Claim 15, said cells having been transformed to express said heterologous recombinant protein.

Claim 28 (New) A CHO cell deprived of the portion of the gene encoding the catalytic domain of CMAH.

Claim 30 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 28 deprived of a portion of the gene encoding CMAH that is disposed between part of exon 10 and part of exon 15 and comprises exons 11 through 14 in their entirety.

{W:\02901\0203976us0\00697546.DOC 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 }

Claim 32 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 31 deprived of a portion of the gene encoding CMAH, the cDNA of said portion having the sequence: SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 31, said portion of the gene encoding the sequence of CMAH said portion disposed between amino-acid 262 and amino-acid 532.

Claim 34 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 31 said portion of the gene encoding the portion of CMAH having the sequence: SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 35 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 31, wherein the NCBI accession number of the cDNA is AJ242835.

Claim 36 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 28, wherein the portion CHO of the gene coding for CMAH is absent from both alleles.

Claim 37 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 28, wherein the sequence eliminated has been replaced by at least one DNA sequence encoding for resistance to an antibiotic.

Claim 38 (New) A CHO cell according to Claim 37, wherein the antibiotic is zeocine.

Claim 39 (New) A method for expressing a heterologous recombinant protein comprising culturing CHO cells according to Claim 28, said cells having been transformed to express said heterologous recombinant protein.

Claim 40 (New) The method of Claim 39, wherein said protein is at least one recombinant glycoconjugate.